

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/982,076

Examiner

X L Bautista

Applicant(s)

CAHN, ROBERT

Art Unit

2179

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to papers filed 9/22/04.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-12.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 22 September 2004 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

X. L. Bautista
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 2179

DETAILED ACTION

Reasons for Allowance

1. Claims 1-12 are allowed.
2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Independent claims 1 and 7 have been carefully considered. Prior art or record fails to teach the combination of claimed elements including a graphical user interface having option areas for displaying user functions; the user can activate an instrumentality for displaying in a separate menu the functions that are displayed in the option areas.

Thompson-Rohrlich (US 5,504,852) discloses a method for creating, organizing, and displaying aliases for files stored on a computer. The aliases are created to provide an organized view of the files available to the user that meet a search criteria. A window is used to display the results of a search and organization. Thompson-Rohrlich fails to teach or suggest an instrumentality, such as an icon or sequence of keystrokes, for enabling the user to display in a separate menu functions that are displayed to the user in an option area.

Wong et al (US 6,175,364 B1) discloses a method for interfacing graphical user interface containers with graphical user interface components objects. The containers can take the form of sliding panels associated with a particular window; the sliding panels may be accessed by manipulating handles; unique colors are used to identify particular sliding panels. Wong fails to teach or suggest an instrumentality, such as an

icon or sequence of keystrokes, for enabling the user to display in a separate menu the functions that are contained in the sliding panels.

Conclusion

3. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to X L Bautista whose telephone number is (703) 305-3921. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday (8:00-18:00), Fridays Off.

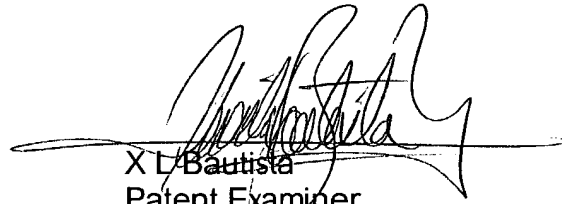
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Heather Herndon can be reached on (703) 308-5186. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

5. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should

you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

PTO Move Information

6. The Patent and Trademark Office will be moving to Carlyle in October 2004 (October 12th through October 28th). The Examiner's new telephone number will be (571) 272-4132; The Examiner's SPE new telephone number will be (571) 272-4136; and the Technology Center Main Telephone Number will be (571) 272-2100.



X L Bautista
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 2179

xlb
30 September 2004